

LEEC NEWSLETTER

A COMPILATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS FROM LOUISIANA AND BEYOND



LEEC NEWS

PRESENTER PROPOSALS WELCOME

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission is pleased to announce that we are accepting proposals for concurrent sessions at the 2017 Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium.

We are celebrating the 20th symposium this year and would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the educators, presenters, partners and exhibitors that help to make the event successful year after year.

The theme for this year's conference is "Protecting Louisiana's Endangered Species." As usual, sessions do not have to match the theme, but we are especially happy to accept proposals that do include some connection to endangered species.

The proposed duration for sessions is 50 minutes with 10 minute breaks between. Be sure to check <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/louisiana-environmental-education-symposium> for more information. We are updating the site as new info becomes available.



HELP NAAEE IMPROVE EE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NAAEE has published a brief online survey to gather information about your experiences in Environmental Education Professional Development.

[You can find the survey here.](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP SHOWS EVERY RIVER THAT FLOWS TO THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI

A new animated map published by National Geographic illustrates the immensity of the Mississippi River watershed. The watershed covers all or part of 31 states and two Canadian provinces, and encompasses 1.2 million square miles, about 40 percent of the lower 48.

See the map and the accompanying article at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/09/mississippi-river-watershed-map/>.

NEW RESEARCH SAYS LAUNDRY HAS HIDDEN IMPACTS

Source: <http://phys.org/news/2016-09-thousands-microplastic-particles-environment.html>

Research published in *Marine Pollution Bulletin* suggests that we release as many as 700,000 microscopic fibers into the environment each time we do a load of laundry. Earlier research has shown that micro plastics, some like those released from synthetic fabrics during the wash cycle, can attract harmful chemicals like PCBs, pesticides and petroleum products. When the micro plastics are ingested by marine life the toxins make their way into the bloodstream. The plastics themselves may also build up over time, causing blockage of the digestive system.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR OCTOBER 8 YESS WORKSHOP

Join a team of environmental educators at one of two *Young Environmental Science Stewards Project (YESS) Workshops* this fall semester to learn how you can incorporate Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences into your teaching.

Choose from two locations: University of New Orleans Coastal Education and Research Facility (CERF) and Southeastern Louisiana University's Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station. Both offer a full Day of field experience in the marshes of the Pontchartrain Estuary.

Dates: Saturday, October 8, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Turtle Cove, located on Pass Manchac in St. John Parish, and Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at CERF, located on Chef Menteur Pass in Orleans Parish.

For more information, contact Dinah Maygarden at dmaygard@uno.edu.

OPPORTUNITY

FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

Middle School Teachers! Looking for ways to energize your students and use real-world contexts to solve problems in your classroom or science club? Future City 2017 is the way to go!

Each year middle school students embark on a transformative experience as they ask and answer the question, "How can we make the world a better place?" This year's focus is the "Power of Public Space!" From this simple starting point, teams spend time imagining, researching, designing, and building cities of the future and present their projects January 21st at LSU Baton Rouge.

Implement STEAM in your classroom while preparing for the Louisiana Future City 2017 Competition! Your students will learn far more skills by working together and problem-solving.

Go to www.futurecity.org and find out all about the competition! Questions? Contact Brenda Nixon, bnixon@lsu.edu, 225-205-2680.

LAGNIAPPE

EPA SAYS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

The EPA commissioned a study to estimate the groundwater recharge benefits from application of small storm retention practices on new development and redevelopment nationwide. The results suggest that over time the use of green infrastructure can save hundreds of millions of dollars in groundwater resources when only applying the practices to new development and redevelopment. If retrofitting or increased retention were to occur, the groundwater benefits would be even more significant.

[See the full results of the study here.](#)



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